



REQUEST FOR SUPPORT APPLICATION FORM

Date of Request	March 31, 2025
Organization/Group making the request	Wildcoast Ecological Society
Contact Person	Tara Matthews
Address	██████████ Nanaimo BC
Telephone	778-995-7827
Email Address:	admin@wildcoastecological.com
Type of Support Requested (Select one)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Letter of Support in Principle <input type="checkbox"/> In-Kind Contribution <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Partnership <i>Note: This policy is not applicable to requests for grant funding by the City, including Permissive Tax Exemption requests, or in-kind funding for facility rentals (see Grants Policy and Guidelines for further details)</i>

IF APPLICABLE:

Name of grant or program for which you are applying:

Eco Action

Amount of Funding Requested: \$100,000 Grant Due Date: April 10, 2025

Grant Organization: Environment and Climate Change Canada

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Please provide an executive summary or short narrative that addresses each of the points outlined in the "Council Support policy". Include a draft letter, any supporting documents or materials and a detailed list of other funding partners (if applicable).

Please submit this form, with accompanying materials, to the attention of the Corporate Officer, Legislative Services, City of Nanaimo, 455 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6, or by email to: legislative.servicesoffice@nanaimo.ca.

Respecting Your Privacy

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East Wellington Park's Ecosystem Restoration & Wildlife Education Program

1. Request from a Local Non-Profit or Recognized Organization:

This request is being submitted by **Wildcoast Ecological Society**, a non-profit environmental organization operating across the South Coast of British Columbia, including the City of Nanaimo.

2. Contact Information:

Name: Tara Matthews

Title: Project Manager

Mailing Address: [REDACTED], Nanaimo, BC, [REDACTED]

Email: admin@wildcoastecological.com

Phone: 778-995-7827

3. Background Information on the Organization:

Wildcoast Ecological Society, established in 2016, is a not-for-profit organization committed to environmental conservation, research, habitat restoration, and youth education throughout the

South Coast of British Columbia. For the past nine years, we have partnered with local governments, organizations, and schools to deliver impactful ecological programs. Our mission is to restore and protect degraded ecosystems by implementing community-based restoration projects, involving the public in stewardship activities, and supporting efforts that protect ecologically sensitive species and critical habitats.

4. Funding Source of the Proposed Program:

The proposed program will be funded through a variety of grants. We will be applying for funding from the following sources:

- **EcoAction Community Funding Program** (Federal – 2025/2026)
- **Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation** – Action Grant (2026) and Fish & Wildlife Grant (Fall 2025)
- **Wildlife Habitat Canada** – Conservation Stamp Initiative
- **Pacific Salmon Foundation** – Community Salmon Program (Fall 2025)
- **BC Hydro** – Environmental Grant (April 2025)

5. Services to be Offered:

Wildcoast Ecological Society will rehabilitate a portion of **East Wellington Park** in Nanaimo, with a focus on improving the riparian habitat along the salmon-bearing **Millstone River**. As outlined in the East Wellington Park Plan, our restoration team will remove invasive plant species from the riverbank and replant with native vegetation. This work will help stabilize the slope, enhance salmon habitat by increasing shade, introduce natural inputs to the stream, and reduce erosion.

We will also deliver a comprehensive **eco-education and stewardship program** in collaboration with **Stream of Dreams Mural Society**, two local schools, and the broader community. Stream of Dreams will facilitate their award-winning “Fish on Fences” watershed education and art program with students, while Wildcoast will host educational field trips and public volunteer events to foster deeper understanding and engagement with local ecosystems.

6. Target Groups and Number of Individuals to be Served:

The program will serve:

- Approximately **400 students** in grades 4–8 from **Nanaimo Christian School** and **Mountainview Elementary**

- At least **100 community members** through stewardship events and volunteer opportunities

7. Timeframes/Dates of Program Administration:

Pending successful grant funding, **Year 1** of the project will run from **September 2025 to March 31, 2026**.

Planning and preparation activities are already underway.

8. Anticipated Outcomes:

- Increased knowledge among students and community members about ecological restoration, native/invasive species, and riparian ecosystems
- Increased awareness of local native plants through restoration activities and educational signage
- Strengthened community engagement in environmental stewardship through public events and workshops
- Improved habitat for local wildlife and pollinators
- Enhanced stream health and riparian function through slope stabilization, expanded riparian buffer zones, and increased shading

9. Proposed Budget (in Detail):

Category	Cost
In-class education (Stream of Dreams)	\$7,000
On-site education & stewardship (field trips)	\$6,720
Project Manager (10 days @ \$500/day + 5%)	\$5,250
Stewardship Coordinator (5 days @ \$400/day + 5%)	\$2,100
Environmental Technicians (10 days, 4 staff)	\$16,800
Indigenous Knowledge Keeper (1 day)	\$800
Native Plants (300 plants @ \$10/plant)	\$3,000
Materials & Supplies	\$1,750
Administration (10%)	\$3,900
Total Expenses	\$47,320

In-Kind Contributions:

- Echo Ecological Enterprises – technical consultation services valued at **\$6,000**

10. Similar Programs in Nanaimo:

There are currently **no similar programs** in the Nanaimo area that combine ecological restoration, youth education, and public engagement at this scale.

11. Other Organizations Applying for the Same Funds:

To our knowledge, **no other organizations** in the Nanaimo area are applying for these specific funding opportunities for similar work.

12. Ongoing or Continuing Project – Results from Previous Years:

While this is a new initiative within Nanaimo, Wildcoast Ecological Society has successfully delivered similar ecological restoration and education projects throughout the Lower Mainland. These projects combined ecological restoration, youth education, community engagement, and biodiversity monitoring. A summary of selected past projects is outlined below:

Project Site	Education Programs	Area Restored	Native Plants Added	Volunteer Events	Public Education Activities	Surveys Completed
Jericho Beach Park	300 children educated	0.75 ha wetland	600	6	1 tree walk, 1 bat walk	Bats, birds, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians
Everett Crowley Park	600 students educated	0.25 ha	580	6	1 tree walk, 1 bat walk, 2 event info booths	Bats, birds, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians
Trout Lake	250 children, youth, and adults educated	0.75 ha	2,000	18	2 bat walks, 2 public presentations, 4 event info booths	Bats, birds, amphibians
Lower MacKay Creek	1,200 children and youth educated	6 ha	6,000	30	15 educational walks and talks with youth and adults	Bats, birds, amphibians, aquatic invertebrates, salmonids

These programs reflect our capacity to successfully plan, implement, and manage integrated ecological and educational initiatives. They also demonstrate our ability to engage large numbers of students, volunteers, and community members while restoring high-value habitat and gathering valuable ecological data.

13. Coordination with Other Entities:

This project is being coordinated with the following partners:

- **Stream of Dreams Mural Society** – eco-education and student art programming
- **Echo Ecological Enterprises** – technical support and ecological consultation
- **Local Schools** – including Nanaimo Christian School and Mountainview Elementary
- **Community Members** – through volunteer and stewardship events

[Your Organization's Letterhead or Logo]

[Mailing Address]

[Email Address]

[Phone Number]

[Date]

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Letter of Support for Wildcoasts's East Wellington Park's Ecosystem Restoration & Wildlife Education Program in Nanaimo

On behalf of _____, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the Wildcoast's East Wellington Park's Ecosystem Restoration & Wildlife Education Program, a community-based initiative aimed at restoring and enhancing ecological health in the Nanaimo area.

Since its founding in 2016, Wildcoast has worked extensively throughout the South Coast of British Columbia to restore degraded ecosystems and foster environmental stewardship through community engagement. We are exciting for this organization, who is committed to hands-on restoration, research, and youth education, to bring their energy and expertise to the Nanaimo area.

We believe the proposed Nanaimo project is strongly aligned with our mission and regional conservation priorities. By involving local residents, youth, and community partners in ecological restoration efforts, this initiative will build long-term environmental stewardship while addressing urgent biodiversity and habitat challenges in the area.

We are excited by the potential outcomes of this project—including improved habitat for native species, increased public awareness of local ecology, and stronger community connections through meaningful environmental work. _____ is pleased to support this initiative and looks forward to potential opportunities for collaboration and knowledge-sharing throughout the course of the project.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information or if we can be of assistance in advancing this important work.

Sincerely,

[Full Name]

[Title, eg., Executive Director]

[Organization]